

10 REASONS

NOT!

TO ATTACK IRAQ

1) Iraq has not attacked us. In fact, it has not attacked anyone in over a decade. It is absurd and morally wrong to invade a sovereign nation because you think it might attack you. Imagine being executed because your neighbor suspected you were planning to kill him!

What is a "pre-emptive strike"? It's the same thing the Japanese tried in World War II, when they bombed the US naval base at Pearl Harbor. They suspected the US would join the Allies, so they hit us first, an action we rightly condemned as unjust. Yet it is exactly the reasoning expressed by Rumsfeld & co. for invading Iraq.

2) There is no evidence that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. If such evidence existed, it would already have been produced, and we would probably already be at war. The Bush II Administration is playing a childish game when it claims it has valid evidence but doesn't need to show it. Should they eventually be pressured enough to produce some "evidence", it will doubtless be unconvincing or consist of such minor details as to not support a war.

3) The American Academy of Arts and Sciences reported that even a short-term war with Iraq would cost the US at least \$100 billion dollars. A long-term war (up to ten years, and with "peacekeeping" and "nation-building" plans, this is possible) could cost up to \$1.9 trillion dollars. These funds will in part be raised by cutting domestic programs such as drought aid, help for the poor, education, etc.

4) The Medical Association for the Prevention of War; a worldwide coalition of doctors and medical associations, reports that we could expect at least 50,000 deaths in a "brief conventional war." Obviously, the toll would be much higher should either side use any weapons of mass destruction. A war with Iraq would not be like war with Afghanistan (in which we took out the poorly trained Taliban); a war with Iraq would be another Vietnam. Are Americans prepared to lose 50,000 or more soldiers in war overseas? Think of your sons and daughters dying (or worse) in the desert, and for what reason? Because the Bush II camp had an unsubstantiated hunch that Iraq would attack us?

5) The CIA recently gave a report on Iraq and its possible motives for using weapons of mass destruction. It concluded Hussein might use them in one scenario: if we would invade and give him no other choice. Now I think it only makes sense that if a country is involved in a hopeless war, the more desperate it becomes, the more likely it will be to use whatever means of fighting are available to it (wouldn't you support the use of nukes if the US was almost completely conquered by a foreign enemy?). Under no other circumstances are they likely to use them, should they have any.

Remember, if its weapons of mass destruction that you're worried about, there's only one nation to fear: our own. We are the only ones who have used them.

6) A US attack on Iraq will worsen our already poor relations with peoples in the Middle East. Have we forgotten September 11th, 2001? Those terrorists' hideous agendas were fueled out of rage as a result of the inhumane policies of US and European countries, such as our support for the dictatorships in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, and our blind support for Israel (whether what they do is godly or not! Even the biblical Israel was repeatedly punished by God for horrible atrocities, so why should the modern-day country be immune?).

7) The people of Iraq have suffered enough! Not only have they felt Saddam Hussein's brutality, they have also been subject to multiple disastrous US bombing campaigns:

a) The last time we bombed Baghdad, under the Clinton regime, Time magazine reported that the Pentagon admitted over 50% of our so-called "smart bombs" missed their targets. In urban areas, that can only mean the deaths of civilians and destruction of homes and communities.

b) On February 13, 1991, a US bomb incinerated 310 Iraqi civilians hiding in the bomb shelter in the Al-Ameriyya residential neighborhood. The shelter was targeted because of a rumor that families of Iraqi government party members were taking refuge there. They weren't.

c) The economic sanctions imposed by the US over the last few years have hurt only the civilians of the country. They certainly have not affected Saddam very much-have you seen his presidential palaces on the news?

8) Saddam Hussein used to be an ally of the United States (although all of the following facts will never be found in the corporate media or from the government itself). Recently we've all heard how he gassed and killed many of

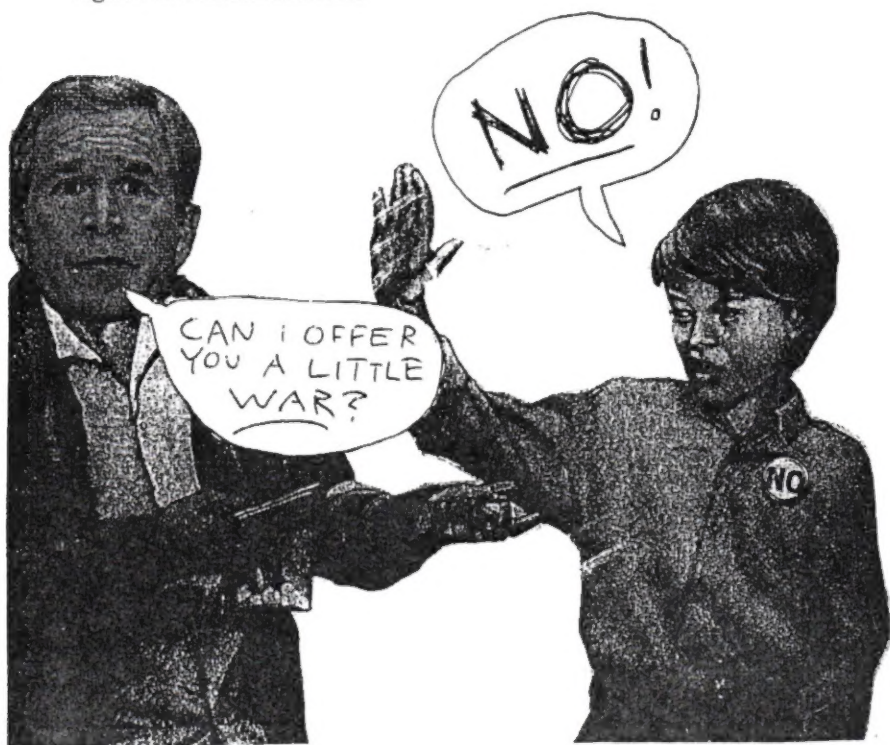
his own people, mostly the Kurdish minority. In fact, he was openly supported by President Reagan during these years.

a) Donald Rumsfeld himself was Reagan's personal envoy to Hussein when the U.S. resumed diplomatic relations in 1983, during the worst of his slaughters.

b) From 1984 to 1989, the US supplied Iraq with over \$5 billion worth of weapons (including chemical), training, and sensitive CIA intelligence information.

c) According to William Blum in an article for Progressive magazine, Sam Gejdenson, the chairperson of a Congressional subcommittee investigating US exports to Iraq, disclosed that from 1985 until 1990..."the U.S. government approved 771 licenses for the export to Iraq of \$1.5 billion worth of biological agents and high-tech equipment with military application..."

d) Blum continued by saying..."The U.S. spent virtually an entire decade making sure that Saddam Hussein had virtually whatever he wanted...U.S. export control policy was directed by U.S. foreign policy as formulated by the State Department, and it was US foreign policy to assist the regime of Saddam Hussein."



BY STAN
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9) A unilateral US invasion of Iraq would further isolate the United States from its allies across the globe. Although it might be fashionable to pretend that this doesn't matter, the truth is the world is populated by almost 7 billion people, and we cannot ignore them all. Nations like Russia, China, France, and Germany, are extremely important allies in our globalized world, both for economic and security purposes. These countries do not support our war with Iraq:

a) 75% of the French and Germans are against any form of military action against Iraq (The Guardian, 1/23/03)

b) 3 out of 4 Germans say they believe "George Bush is a greater threat to world peace than Saddam Hussein" (The Guardian, 1/23/03)

10) A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll found that 7 out of 10 Americans want the UN weapons inspectors to be given more time to do their job. The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported that sixty percent of US citizens are against war unless we at least have UN backing.



A US invasion of Iraq will in no way benefit you and me. This war will have a disastrous effect on the economy, on our friends and family serving in the armed forces, and on the suffering civilians of Iraq. It will strain our relations with the Middle Eastern nations in particular and many other allies across the globe.

So the obvious question is: Why are we still planning to invade Iraq?

Perhaps Bush 2, Rumsfeld, Ashcroft, Cheney & co. are so insensitive to any democratic principles that they feel they should be able to act however they wish, even if that means declaring war unprovoked, with no regard to what the population of our country and of the world thinks.

A more certain reason for this warmongering however, is oil. Bush 2 and Cheney have huge backings by the oil industry. The price of crude barrels is going up. That's not good for Bush's cronies. Iraq possesses the world's second-largest oil reserves, and is ruled by a now-unfriendly (to the US) president. After the patriotic frenzy whipped up after 9/11, Bush and his cronies hoped to have the domestic support to carry out attacks against any unfriendly nation for any or no reason at all, and picked out Iraq as the most lucrative victim (lucrative for Bush's friends in oil, not the general public).

What the present administration wasn't expecting was that the blind nationalistic support for an all-out war would collapse. Yes, we still remember 9/11, but as the now-popular saying goes, "Our grief is not a call for war!". And wouldn't it be a better use of our tax dollars to catch Osama bin Laden? He's still on the loose, even though the entire country of Afghanistan is in ruins due to our bombardment. Osama and the al-Quaida network have killed thousands more Americans than Saddam Hussein (even counting the Gulf War!), but those in power in the White House would rather the populace forget about that now-useless villain and move on to someone worth a little more to the oil companies: Iraq's Hussein.

Don't fall for the White House warmongering rhetoric. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Bush 2 have all used outrageous propaganda tricks to support their baseless threats. For instance, Rumsfeld recently attempted another catch-22: he claimed that if the UN weapons inspectors DIDN'T find evidence of mass destruction weapons in Iraq, we would have to attack because Hussein would then obviously be hiding them too well. Of course, we all know that if the inspectors did find any such evidence, we would immediately attack. So there is no way out for Iraq, because if we find evidence, we invade; if we don't, we invade. Is it any wonder other world leaders distrust these guys?

The general populace will not be fooled by the power-hungry "leaders" in office. We must think critically and not just accept whatever the government tells us. Because of the corporate media's ties to our corporation-backed politicians, we have to rely on other means of communication to express our ideas. That's what this little pamphlet is about. If you think it's important that more people read this, please copy it off and give it to other people. If you have any comments, please contact us at the email address below. Pray for peace, and remember, together we can put an end to war!

"Of course the people don't want war... That is understood. But after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy, and it's always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it's a democracy, a fascist dictatorship, a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."

* -- Hermann Goering, Adolf Hitler's Deputy Chief and Luftwaffe Commander, at the Nuremberg trials, 1946 (from "Nuremberg Diary" by G M Gilbert)

NO
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